कामगार श्री राजेन्द्र सिंह, लिपिक के मध्य औद्योगिक विवाद	केन्द्रीय सरकार औद्योगिक अधिकरण, नई दिल्ली को न्यायनिर्णयन के लिए संदर्भित कर दिया गया है।	

केन्द्रीय सरकार औद्योगिक अधिकरण, जो कि एक न्यायिक निकाय है, के पास लम्बित मामलों के निपटारे में सरकार हस्तक्षेप नहीं करती है।

PHD Chamber of Commerce concern over Non-addition of New Dispensary or Hospital

4318. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PHD Chamber of Commerce has in a background paper for the round table held recently, lamented that not a single new dispensary or hospital has been added for catering to the additional employees after revision of eligibility norms; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The PHD Chamber of Commerce has referred to the inadequacy of the infrastructure to provide satisfactory medical cover under the ESI Scheme.

(b) As on 1.1.1997, the ESIC has set up 124 hospitals, 42 annexes and 1442 dispensaries for providing medical care to the ESI beneficiaries throughout the country. The facilities provided in these hospitals/dispensaries are presently considered adequate to take care of additional employees as majority of these employees were earlier beneficiaries of the ESI Scheme but had gone out of its coverage because of gradual increase in their wages. However, depending on the need, additional hospitals/dispensaries are constructed/set up.

Exploitation of Beedi Workers by the organised Beedi Mafia

4319. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the beedi workers in the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat etc., are being exploited by organised beedi mafia sector;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to relieve the strain and stress on beedi workers;

(c) whether there is no scheme of insurance, provident fund, pension, etc. applicable to beedi workers;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and measures taken or proposed to be taken in uplifting beedi workers;

(e) whether a number of women and children are being exploited by organised beedi companies; and

(f) if so, the efforts being made to give relief particularly to children below 14 years and providing creche facilities at the place of work by the beedi manufacturing companies?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) No such report has come to the notice of the Government. The Beedi & Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 has been enacted with a view to prevent exploitation of workers and safeguard their interests.

(c) and (d) The beedi workers working in the establishment covered under the E.P.F. & M.P. Act 1952 get the benefits provided under E.P.F. scheme, 1952, Employees Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976 and Employees Pension Scheme, 1995. In addition the Group Insurance Scheme is also being implementated by the Labour Welfare Organisation for the welfare of identified beedi workers.

(e) and (f) Provisions have been made in the Beedi & Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 to safeguard the interest of beedi workers including women workers and provision for providing creche facilities in beedi establishment where more than 50 female workers are employed also exists. Further, employment of children, below 14 years of age, in the process of beedi making stands prohibited under the Beedi & Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 as well as the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

Three-fold rise in child labour by the year 2000

4320. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of existing Labour Force and Planning Commission's assessment, the number of child labour by the year 2000 would have three-fold rise; and

(b) if so, the action to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) As per the 1981 census the total number of working children in the country was 13.6 million. According to 1991 census, the number of working children is 11.28 million. It is unlikely that the number of child labour by the year 2000 would have three fold rise. The Government, however, is committed to a policy for elimination of child labour in all its forms and taken a series of step for enforcing existing legislative provisions and rehabilitation of child labour.

Public hearing on Child Labour Organised in New Delhi

4321. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether some public hearing on child labour was organised on 31st March, 1997 at New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof, with objectives;

(c) whether the organisers would succeed in their compaign against child labour by organising such public hearings;

(d) whether Government propose to encourage such steps against child labour; and

(e) the other measures Government propose to take to end child labour in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL) had organised a public hearing on child labour and the 2nd National Convention on Child Labour on 30th March—1st April, 1997 in New Delhi. The main demands and recommendations made in the public hearing, inter alia, included the provision of free compulsory, relevant and quality elementary education to all children, prohibition of the employment of children upto the age of 14 in all sectors, and strict enforcement of the direction of the Supreme Court Judgement in M.C. Mehta V/s State of Tamil Nadu.

(c) and (d) Generation of awareness among the public against the evil of child labour is an important element of the Governments programme for the elimination of child labour. It is felt that such campaigns do help in creating such awareness and need encouragement.

(e) Government has taken a series of steps for the elimination of child labour working in hazardous occupations. Under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, the employment of children is prohibited in 7 occupations and 18 processes contained in parts A and B of the schedule to the Act. There are also legal provisions in various other labour laws safeguarding the interest of working children. The legal provisions are en-